



UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY
Office of Environmental Affairs
600 Harrison Street, Suite 515
San Francisco, California 94107-1376

April 22, 1991

Don White, Branch Chief (H-8)
U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
75 Hawthorne Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

Dear Mr. White,

A number of Bureaus of the Department of the Interior (Bureau of Indian Affairs, Bureau of Land Management, Office of Surface Mining), Office of Environmental Affairs (OEA), Indian Health Service, and the Navajo Nation met on April 8, 1991, in Albuquerque, NM. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the uranium mine sites near Bluewater, NM for which a health advisory had been issued by the Agency for Toxic Substance and Disease Registry.

While staff from Region IX Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was invited, we understand that scheduling conflicts made it impossible to attend. Accordingly, we are enclosing a copy of the meeting summary for your information.

You will note that the meeting participants were extremely concerned over the possibility of human health impacts resulting from the inactive mines and support the concept of time critical removal actions to be initiated by the EPA. We are also concerned over the lack of an EPA determination as to whether response actions will be administered under the time critical removal or National Priority List remediation program.

Department of the Interior bureau participants in this meeting have considerable expertise in mine reclamation, and some have contributed to remediation of other uranium mines in New Mexico. In this regard, participants are interested in reviewing any EPA plans for action and we can provide useful expertise and technical assistance in either a removal or remedial response.

We therefore request that we be notified by your office of proposed time critical response actions so we can assist. We are also interested in actively participating in the development and implementation of long-term remediation plans for the sites.

We appreciate the cooperation of your staff and request a continuation of your support for the effort to coordinate the response effort with the Department of the Interior, Health and Human Services, and the Navajo Nation.

If you have any questions concerning our meeting summary or this letter, or wish to discuss proposed response actions, please contact me at (415) 744-4090.

Sincerely,



William C. Allan
Regional Environmental Assistant

Enclosure

cc: Ray Churan, REO/ALB
Walt Mills, AD, Navajo Area Office, BIA
David Sitzler, BLM
Bernard Freeman, OSM
Charles Dowell, IHS
Thomas O'Hare, SOL
Joanne Manygoats, Navajo Nation